

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman :

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

Editors:

Kaname Tsukahara

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations  
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

CABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 103 & 104 (Double number)

May 15, 1957

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## DR. STANLEY JONES LEAVES JAPAN

Sponsored by the NCC Tokyo District Committee, the final public meeting of Dr. Stanley Jones' current evangelistic tour drew 1,800 people. 883 cards were signed and an offering of ¥50,000. received. Dr. Jones held 6 Ashrams in addition to nearly 100 public meetings at which 14,000 cards were signed, about a third being new commitments.

Summarizing his wishes for the churches of Japan, he proposed: (1) First launch a movement in the churches to observe the daily quiet hour every morning; (2) begin neighborhood prayer cells all over the nation led by laymen; and (3) promote visitation evangelism by laymen. On May 1 he flew to Korea. He departs for India May 15.







# DELEGATE TO ATTEND MERGER CONVENTION

Agreement has been reached between the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church in the United States for the union of the two denominations; and a merger convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, from June 25 to 27. Mr. Y. Akagi, Assistant Professor at Tohoku Gakuin, who is currently studying at Union Theological Seminary, New York, will represent the United Church of Christ in Japan.

# NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION OPENS

Some seven hundred church school teachers from all over the nation attended the National Convention on Christian Education, May 2-6 at Miyagi Gakuin, Sendai, which had as its theme "Our Mission in the Pagan World." Dr. Takeshi Ito, Moderator of the United Church, preached the opening sermon. Special speakers included Dr. Kagawa, Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh, Secretary for the Far East of the Board of Foreign Missions, Methodist Church in the U.S.A., Mr. M. Mitotsuyanagi of the Omi Brotherhood, Professor M. Imada of Kwansei Gakuin, and Professor Enkichi Kan of Rikkyo University, Tokyo.

# JAPAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH TO HAVE GENERAL MEETING MAY 7

The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its 34th General Assembly in Tokyo May 7-9. 150 delegates attended. Of special significance was the discussion regarding the merger of eleven Lutheran bodies in Japan. The draft of a proposed constitution for a United Lutheran Church in Japan was approved.

# REVERENDS MITSUI AND FURUYA OF KYODAN CHOSEN FOR UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

The General Assembly of the United Church of Christ in Japan last fall established a committee on foreign missions, which is perhaps the beginning of a board of foreign missions, with Reverend G. Okada as Chairman.

In this connection, when the United Church of Canada asked the Kyodan for two young pastors, Reverend Tadashi Mitsui, 26, minister of Kamata Church, and Reverend Nozomu Furuya, 26, pastor of Inatori Church in Shizuoka prefecture, were appointed. They are due to leave for Canada in the fall.

Reverend Niwa, Secretary of the General Affairs Section of the Kyodan says: The United Church of Canada is desirous of having young Japanese ministers. Both these men are able young evangelists and we expect much of them. The Kyodan desires to cooperate as much as possible in overseas evangelism, especially in light of requests from Brazil, the Philippine Islands and from other countries in Asia.

# TETSU KATAYAMA CHOSEN CHAIRMAN OF BOARD, CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

At the board of trustees' meeting of the Japan Christian Temperance Union, Mr. Tetsu Katayama, former Prime Minister and now an Advisor to the Socialist Party, was unanimously selected new Chairman of the board.







# 10 MILLION FOR JAPAN'S EVANGELISM, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK REQUEST FOR GRANT FIXED FOR NEXT YEAR

The General Meeting of the Council of Cooperation at Hakone, April 23-24, attended by 42 members, representing evangelism, education and social work.

Requests for IBC cooperative funds for 1958 were set as follows:

## Running Expenses:

\$ 190,540.00 -- Evangelism  
 81,907.00 -- Missionary Projects  
 7,000.00 -- Management  
 285,000.00 -- Education  
 60,500.00 -- Social Work  
 90,467.00 -- Various organizations  
 \$ 716,294.00 -- TOTAL

## Contingent Funds:

\$ 1,529,800.00 Schools  
 74,450.00 Social Work  
 162,980.00 Kyodan  
 \$ 1,767,230.00 Total

GRAND TOTAL \$2,482,524.00 or  
 ¥892,708,640.

## . PROTESTANTS NUMBER 100MILLION: METHODISTS ON TOP WITH 9MILLION

According to News Week, Protestants in America now number One Hundred million. The Methodists place first with a total membership of 9.4 Million.

## WORLD PEACE AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN".

## KYODAN SENDS MESSAGE TO SUPERINTENDENT Y.T. WU VIA CHRISTIAN DELEGATION TO RED CHINA

The United Church of Christ in Japan entrusted the delegation of fifteen Christians leaving to visit China with the following message signed by Dr. K. O. Moderator, and addressed to Superintendent Y.T. Wu of the Three Self-Governing United Church of Communist China who invited the Japanese last October:

"Miss Kiyoko Takeda's visit to your country and the fellowship she had with important persons there in the spring of 1956 was a matter of deep appreciation for the United Church of Christ in Japan which is anxious to strengthen relations with your Christian churches. This time you have extended a cordial invitation to fifteen Christian leaders to visit your country for furthering of good will between the two nations. The delegation is due to leave Japan today. We wish to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the good will and cooperation existing between the churches of the two countries. It is both our wish and prayer that we might be able to talk heartily about the establishment of world peace and the building of the Kingdom of Heaven on behalf of all humanity. We hope that your churches will grow in the blessings of our Lord."

## CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA" PLANNED FOR CENTENNIAL

The Literature Commission of the National Christian Council of Japan is to publish a "Christian Encyclopedia" in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Japan's Protestantism at a cost of some ten million yen. Size is B-5, and approximately 1,500 pages.

A Christian encyclopedia was put out forty years ago by Mr. U. Takagi at his own expense and another one was published twenty years ago by the Nichiyō Shoin. The new dictionary will cost about ¥10,000 a copy.



THE MORNING STAR OF THE GERMANIA HOUSE



EXHIBITION OF WORLD CHRISTIAN PICTURES

The Presbyterian Church in America will hold its quadrennial meeting of Christian women in Indiana in July 1958 at which some five thousand women delegates from the U.S.A. and abroad are expected. On this occasion, an exhibition of the world's Christian pictures is scheduled. A request has been received asking for entries to this display from Japan.

REVEREND RYO TAKAHASHI

Reverend Ryo Takahashi, Secretary of the General Evangelism Department of the Kyodan, with desk in the Sogo Dendo Iinkai office, Kyobunkan, resigned his secretaryship in order to devote full time to the ministry of Edogawa Church.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN TO BE HELPED BY CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

The Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped of Japan Church World Service will hold its first summer camp at Tomizu Beach, Chiba, to which approximately thirty school children who are victims of polio will go for a bit of fun, ocean swimming and outdoor exercise. They will receive expert care from medical specialists on the staff.

EARLY MORNING FIRE CLAIMS THE GERMANY'S HOUSE

A fire broke out in Reverend Charles H. Germany's house in the early morning of April 20th, destroying the wooden-built second story. The first floor, although not reduced to ashes, was severely damaged. The cause of the fire is reported to have been faulty wiring.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH WEEK SET FOR MAY

The National Christian Council will sponsor a nation-wide observance of "Christian Youth Week", the eighth in its series, May 19-26.

Secretary Mizuno of the NCC Youth Department is quoted as saying: "In view of the nearness of the Asian Youth Conferences next summer, Youth Week this year is going to be somewhat of a preparation for the big meeting. We would like to talk with Christian students from Asian nations from the standpoint of Christianity."

TOKYO UNION CHURCH GIVES ¥100,000 TO JCWS

Reverend Galen Russell, Pastor of Tokyo Union Church, visited Japan Church World Service offices at the Christian Center on the Ginza recently and handed over a check for ¥106,264 for its work. This was given at Union Church when Rev. A. Huston of the JCWS spoke there March 31st in connection with the "One Great Hour of Sharing" observance.







BRITISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES EXPRESSES REGRET OVER H-BOMB EXPERIMENTS

The National Christian Council of Japan received the following communication from England: "The British Council of Churches - in its meeting in London, April 2-3,

records the profound concern felt by Christian people in Britain at the continuing experimental explosions of nuclear weapons, and at the grave danger which they may involve, by the increase of world radiation, for humanity as a whole;

deplores the decision of Her Majesty's Government to carry out a number of nuclear test explosions in the megaton range, in the near future; (i) appeals to Her Majesty's Government, and to the Governments of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. to make a new and determined effort to secure a general nuclear control agreement as soon as possible, and in the meantime, jointly pledge themselves to refrain from any further tests of hydrogen bombs; and (ii) urges the sub-committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission now meeting in London to use its utmost efforts to reach an agreement on the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction, including atomic and hydrogen bombs, with provision for international inspection and control, such as would safeguard the security of all nations, together with the drastic reduction of all other armaments.

Sections (i), (iii) and (iv) were carried unanimously. Section (ii) was carried by 39 votes to 32, with 5 abstentions.

SEVENTY MILLION COPIES OF THE BIBLE DISTRIBUTED IN LAST TEN YEARS

Last year the Japan Bible Society distributed 82,242 copies of the Old and New Testament editions, 1,345,725 portions, and 5,752 copies in Braille.

During the last ten years the Society has distributed just under 20,000,000 copies. The Society estimates that one out of five Japanese have read parts of the Bible. The Society is now printing 51 colloquial versions and 38 literary versions.

SEVENTY-ONE YEAR-OLD PRINCIPAL OF SUNDAY SCHOOL HONORED AT EASTER

The Kyodan awarded commendations to three long-term Sunday School teachers at Easter. The record is probably held by Mr. Yoshi Kajiro in Okayama Church, former President of the Ichikawa Yogyakuen. He was baptized 72 years ago, 1884, and has been a Sunday School teacher for the past 67 years!

COEHLERS HAVE RETURNED HOME

Reverend and Mrs. Norman Koehler, Presbyterian U.S.A., working for the past five years with the NCC Committee on Social Relations in the establishment of Servicemen's Centers near military bases, have recently left for home. They are returning to the U.S.A. by way of Okinawa, Hongkong, Thailand, Burma, India, Europe, and will survey the feasibility of beginning similar work in other countries in which American military bases are located. This work attempts to extend the field of friendly and cultural interchange between the native population and American Christians by arranging joint programs between Christian military personnel and indigenous churches situated around military bases. The Koehlers have been replaced by Reverend and Mrs. Donald Sears. Reverend Sears is a former U.S. Navy Chaplain.



